

Superior Court of California County of Riverside

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NEWS for Immediate Release

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Riverside County Superior Court Announces Public Access to Court Records

Riverside County - Need to check the status of a case, find out the date, time and location of a hearing, or review the minutes from a previous hearing? Riverside County Superior Court is pleased to announce you can now access public court records via their web-site at www.co.riverside.ca.us/depts/courts/pubacc.htm This new, free web-based system replaces an older, difficult to use system that was available only through subscription for a fee.

The public now has the ability to check both civil and criminal court records through a web browser. Civil cases include unlimited civil, limited civil, small claims, probate and family law. Criminal cases include felonies, misdemeanors and traffic. Public access is not available for juvenile cases and cases that have been sealed. Cases can be retrieved using a variety of search criteria: you can use party name, partial party name, case number, or calendar date and department(s). Once a case has been retrieved, you can view the register of actions, the court minutes from previous hearings, the attorney of record, charges on criminal cases, and the date, time, and location of the next calendared hearing. The register of actions is a list of every document filed on the case, all orders and all hearing dates past and future.

All the information provided is public information. No additional information is available on the web that is not available at the courthouse. People needing court documents will still need to come to the courthouse to get documents.

The web site is updated as soon as the data is entered into the court case management system. In many instances, it is entered as soon as the document is filed and as soon as a hearing is concluded. The court's standard is to enter hearing information within 24 hours, but most of the data is entered in the courtroom as it happens. Riverside County Superior Court is one of the few courts in the State of California that provides on-line web based public access to both civil and criminal public court records. Web-based "Public Access" means that litigants or interested parties can greatly reduce or eliminate their visits to the courthouse.

"Public Access" as the court refers to it, went live in July 2002. Without any public announcement, the court had an overwhelming response of over 10,000 hits within the first few weeks! There were 20,000 hits during August 2002. Word is getting out and a few newspapers have written articles making the public aware of what is at their fingertips.

Also available to the public are online manuals for both civil and criminal providing instructions on how to navigate through these systems.

One of the court's strategic goals is to provide greater public access and based on the all the positive feedback received, the Court feels it is on track with the public's desires.

Please visit our site at www.co.riverside.ca.us/depts/courts. Click the Case Information link to get to the screen that contains the on-line user manuals and access to court records. You will also find a link where you can email the Court Web Master: your feedback is encouraged!